In Act Three Scene Five of *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet and her father, Capulet, have a dispute over her single status. Tybalt has just been slain by Romeo, which causes Juliet great sadness, so Capulet decides to give Paris her hand in marriage. What he does not know is that she is crying for Romeo’s banishment as well as Tybalt’s death, but he believes that marrying her off will bring her some happiness. However, Juliet is already married to Romeo and has no desire for any other man. She is overcome with emotions and unintentionally insults her father by defying his decision. In Elizabethan times, fathers chose who their daughters married, so her resistance immediately enrages Capulet. Their conflict, which is largely in part caused by Capulet’s manly pride, reveals much about each of their character changes as well as their mutual relationship.

Until this scene, one of the most noticeable characteristics Juliet has is obedience. After she falls in love with Romeo, her attitude towards her father becomes bolder and more challenging. As displayed in Act 1 Scene 3, Juliet considers her parents’ will more important than her own feelings when she says, “I’ll look to like, if looking liking move./ But no more deep will I endart mine eye/ Than your consent gives strength to make it fly”(1.3.103-105). After she falls in love with Romeo and marries him, she becomes bolder against Capulet when he tells her that she has to marry Paris. This sudden change in Juliet’s attitude is due to her love with Romeo and her fear of a second marriage to a man whom she has no feelings for.

Lord Capulet changes rapidly in Act 3 Scene 5, from what the audience perceive as a loving and caring father to a traditional and hard father. What we first see in Act One and Act Two is a father that cares about his image, pride, and family. He is seen talking to Paris in Act One of a possible marriage between his daughter, Juliet, and Paris. He tells Paris that his “will to her consent is but a part” (1.2.17). In this scene Capulet gives the audience a feeling of fatherly love, where he respects his daughter’s views. He then tells Paris to “Let two more summer wither in their pride” (1.2.10). This quote also shows his love and respect for his daughter’s views and ideas. We see the direct opposite of this in Act Three. He is seen as giving his daughter only two options, marrying Paris, or leaving the household. (3.5.167-170). In Act Two we see Capulet being the authoritative figure during the party. At the party Tybalt wants to initiate a fight with Romeo, due to them being from rival houses. Lord Capulet tells Tybalt to not to attack Romeo and instead to “endure” him. Tybalt tries convincing Lord Capulet, but in vain. Here we see Lord Capulet having authority throughout the household. He can also be seen as a person that does not like to initiate fights, but instead a person that likes peace and to have a “good time.” In Act Three we see Lord Capulet putting this aside and wanting to use violence, “My fingers itch.” (3.5.170). Seeing that Lord Capulet is the head of the Capulet household and has a lot of pride/dignity. In Act Two he shows that his will is like an order to the other members of the household (1.5.81). When Juliet “disrespects” him by not taking the marriage offer he is enraged, “Hang thee, young baggage, disobedient wretch!” (3.5.166). He believes that Juliet should be thankful for the favor he has given her. “Doth she not count her blessed,” (3.5.148). Juliet tries telling her father that she is not defying his will, but instead deciding not to marry Paris. Capulet takes this as an assumption of her defying him and his will. He, being raised in Elizabethan Era, is usually in control of the household. When Juliet says she does not want to follow his will, he becomes angry.

Despite Juliet and Capulet being father and daughter, they do not have an equal mutual relationship with each other, which worsens after Act 3 Scene 5. The relationship between them is not close, but they respect each other and their ideals; Juliet follows Capulet’s orders and Capulet gives her some freedom. An example of this relationship is when Capulet mentions, “My will to her consent is but a part” (1.2.17). Juliet agrees to marry Paris if Capulet wishes it so, and Capulet returns this by considering Juliet’s own choices and ideas. In 3.5 however, Juliet refuses Capulet’s choice and enrages him. Capulet responds by removing Juliet’s freedom and gives her two choices, either “go with Paris to Saint Peter’s Church, or I will drag thee on a hurdle thither” (3.5.159). Juliet’s defiance causes Capulet to become enraged and threaten her to marry Paris. Juliet had broken this mutual agreement in 3.5, which not only angers Capulet but also makes her lose her freedom. Though their relationship has turned worse, the factors that govern their relationship, obedience and freedom, essentially remains the same.

The other side of the characteristics of both Capulet and Juliet are revealed in this scene. Capulet feels that his power over the household is threatened due to Juliet not wanting to marry Paris. Because Juliet became disobedient towards her father and Capulet became more aggressive, anguish is infused in the relationship and soon, Juliet is forced to do whatever she is told or to suffer the consequences.

Character changes

Capulet: provoked by defiance, wants the best for Juliet (even when Juliet doesn’t want it), really stubborn, very traditional man.

Juliet: respectful to her father as an authoritative figure, not proud of his decision, her secret love with Romeo makes her more bold and rebellious

not really a father-daughter relationship. more like he gives the orders and she carries them out.

Points

Capulet is the man of the household and cannot deal with noncompliance. He feels enraged that Juliet is challenging his decision. In Elizabethan times, women had no voice and men were used to women obeying them; when Juliet has feminist ideas, he is very upset. He wasn’t about to have his power challenged by a thirteen-year-old girl.

Capulet thinks that he and Juliet have an understanding between them that he is the voice of the household and does not want Juliet to exercise her freedom of choice.

Character changes:

Juliet and Capulet’s characters have both changed. Juliet’s character changed because she fell in love. Before, she would have willingly married Paris in order to please her father, but now, she resists. In Act One, Capulet only wanted Juliet to marry Paris if she wished, but after he thinks she defies him, his manly pride makes him upset at Juliet.

Before, Capulet respected Juliet’s ideas because she was obedient, docile. When Juliet defies Capulet’s decision to marry her off to Paris. Her love with Romeo made her more willing to speak up against him.

Capulet is very gentlemanly in Act One and it is obvious that he does not support violence. However, when he says, “my fingers itch”, it is obvious that his character has undergone a great change.

Juliet is alone in the household